



SHAG RAG

Shag Dancer Newsletter



Dedicated to the Preservation of the Carolina Shag and Beach Music

Vol. III, No. 3

Keep on Shaggin'

March 1996

From the President - By Charlie Price

I would like to personally apologize to those of you who came to our Sunday Social on February 11, only to be informed at the door that it had been "canceled." Unfortunately, everyone, including myself, first found out about this cancellation when we arrived at the door. I have discussed this problem with the management of Deja Vu, and I have every hope and expectation that it will not happen again.

As many of you are aware, we had our most successful workshop ever on Saturday, February 10th. My sincerest thanks to National Shag Champions SY CREED and DANA BROWN for visiting us, and to RICK HENDRIX, MARK ROLLINGS and all of our other members who helped with this workshop. Thanks also to our many friends from the Richmond and Virginia Beach Shag Clubs for their support. The Board has decided to hold four Workshops during this year, one each quarter, so be on the lookout for the announcements for our Spring Workshop. Make a point to attend, I guarantee you won't be disappointed.

During the past month, I have had several new members and visitors comment that we have one of the "friendliest" dance clubs they have ever seen. In my opinion, this fact has been the key to our success from the beginning, thanks to each and every one of you. Let's all keep up the good work, and make a point each Wednesday to take the time to say "hello" to, and dance with, a new member or visitor.

SEE YOU AT DEJA VU AND KEEP ON SHAGGIN'

POP QUIZ

Do You Know. . . .

WHO named our club newsletter the "Shag Rag"?
Answer on a following page

News/Info -- please contact:
Editor: Janis Grimes, 703-536-7362
Co-Editor: Trelle Shaw, 703-768-7424

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

WHEN: Sunday, March 17th

WHERE: VFW on Spring Hill Rd.
McLean, VA

CONTINUOUS MUSIC by DJs!

TIME: 3 p.m. until (late!)

3:00 - 5:00 - Appetizers

3:30 to 4:30 - Free Shag Lesson

5:00 to 6:30 - DINNER

6:30 until ??? - Open Dancing

DINNER: Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes,
Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee

FREE BEER and SODAS

BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY and SAVE!

Tickets on sale at Deja Vu

COST:

Before March 13th: Members - \$10; non-members - \$12

At the door: Members - \$12; non-members - \$15

NVSC Officers and Board Members

President	Charlie Price	790-0783
Vice Pres.	John Belt	914-8744
Treasurer	Bill Hopkins	410-730-2714
Secretary	Valerie Swiger	281-9193
Board Mem.	Janis Grimes	536-7362
Board Mem.	Rick Hendrix	425-0006
Board Mem.	Patricia Parrott	435-8906
Board Mem.	Chris Pax	301-972-0642
Board Mem.	Fred Whitman	301-816-2941

Super Bowl Party Fun!

by patricia parrott

Have you ever had wild birds feed from your hand? Have you had a coyote chase a desert rabbit across your path? Have you driven across country, packed with all your belongings, destination unknown? Have you shopped Stroget St. in Copenhagen or Covent Gardens in London with a teenage daughter and *your* pocketbook? Been caught in a *small* boat by a *big* storm? Ever skimmed the sea in a Hydrofoil? Hunted havalina? Ever climbed the Washington Monument? The pyramid at Chichen Itza? Diamond Head? Ever had a rifle pointed at you in Havana? Ever spent the night on Pikes Peak? Been a partner in a Shagger's Hall of Fame dance exhibition? Ever seen a psychologist? *Have you ever had more fun at a Super Bowl Party?*

I've done all those things, but one . . . I never ever enjoyed Super Bowl Sunday more! The music was exhilarating! The dancers were great! Food was wonderful! Line dance instruction superb! A. J. was dancin' and groovin' to the music. H. K. ate steaméd oysters like they were going out of style and danced every dance 'till the end as though those oysters gave him some sort of energy. RICK MESMER was his usual cool, sexy self. NICK was handsome even though it appeared he hadn't changed clothes in a week. I'll bet he looked cute, too, cleaning oysters with plastic wrapped around his gloved hands for protection against the cold, and at 3:00 a.m. huddled around a roasting pig for warmth with his hobo crew consisting of JOHN, his friend, PAUL RAMSEY, AKA Ramshead, and DAVE RAPSON. "When's the pork gonna be ready?" "It'll be ready when its ready." OKAY. RICK HENDRIX was busy eating CHRIS PAX'S chili like there was gonna be a fire any minute. VAL acted like she either owned stock in, or was about to buy stock in, the kitchen. How many ways do you like your potato salad? Hot Peppers! That's not a shag song . . . it's JERRY and ANDREA snacking. BARRY KUMAR and BOB WILSON won football pools . . . other pool winners are unknown. PAUL RAMSEY won the 50-50 raffle. JOHN swore it wasn't rigged. Since JUDY LANCE drew the winning ticket, we believe you, John. Our petite DEBBIE looked like she hadn't slept last night herself. I danced like I was on a Clinton assignment to select the top male shagger. We ladies were delighted with BILL's presence with his great dance style. . . HOPKINS, that is. We welcomed JIM with his High Point shaggin' style. TRELLE's sister, DAWN, enjoyed herself more

than anyone except the Hand Dancers who always have fun. LARRY, MARY, MARK, JACK, FRED F., FRED W., LIBBY, HARRIET, HELGA, JANIS PAULINE, DONNA, DONNA, JIM T. . . the list of happy party people goes on and on. It was a five star * * * * party. Oh! By the way . . . who won the game???? P. S. I see a psychologist every Wednesday night at Blackie's. His name is Bill.

* * *

..... Road Trips With Gypsies..

by Janis Grimes

The weekend of February 17-18 was especially fun for several shaggers who headed south to the Lake Norman Shag Club's 8th Annual Original Chicken Pickin' at the Mooresville Skating Rink. MARK ROLLINGS, SHERRY WINTER, JANIS GRIMES and our talented local Swing champion, Terrill Evon (AKA "T,") set out early (!) on Saturday morning for a weekend of dancing to Great DJs, (Harold Beaver and Norman Mills!) FREE POURS, and Fine Food, What a deal!! Alas, RICK, LIBBY and DEBBIE could not make it down the highway on Friday, because of the Weather/Snow, so they had to miss and be missed!

The *second* person I saw upon entering the skating rink -- which has the largest, smoothest, grandest dance floor I have ever seen, by the way -- was CONNIE KEY, mother of the nationally recognized rising young star Brent Key! Also present were SUZETTE & GEORGE; KEN KEY (what a blast!), and SONNY & JUDY CARVER, as well as SY CREED & DANA BROWN! What a weekend! We partied, we danced, we laughed, we learned new steps from Sy & Dana (for free!!), and I got to dance with Sy and with Sonny *twice*. Mark had fun showcasing T, and she got many dances with captivated shaggers. Sherry was kept busy dancing and making new friends, and if you weren't there... you missed out. Many thanks to the Lake Norman Shag Club for hosting such a fine event!

The good news is there are shag club parties going on every single weekend, somewhere, throughout the South. Make plans to come along and join the fun one of these times. Better yet, get to Myrtle Beach for SOS. That's the granddaddy of all parties..... Ask anyone who's been to SOS.....

* * *

Shagger Profile Nancy J. Gehley

Occupation: Homemaker

Birthday: June 7

Hometown: Boston, MA

Marital Status: Married

Self-Portrait: Dancin' Fool (5'8") who just lost 30 lbs.

Motto: Keep on dancing

Dream: To have good health into my 80's

Inspiration: A Mom & Dad who were loving parents and totally devoted to each other.

Bad Habit: Buying too much jewelry

Hobby: D.J. Business / Jewelry buying

Luxury defined: Unlimited travel with unlimited funds

TV Program: ER

Drink or Wine: Black Russians

Books at bedside: The Joy of Sex!!

Last words: Party on, Wayne. . .

Select a Charity...by Patricia Parrott

The objectives of NVSC are shag, dance, music, and fun. Donna Leibowitz, Trelle Shaw, and I will be working the Charity Committee this year. First step is to select a charity. Since this is a unified club effort and your time, money and energy are involved . . . you make the selection, and we'll take it from there. Provided are some categories from which to choose. Simply call 703-435-8906 and state your name and choice of charity, or inform one of us in person. Very simple. Only takes a minute. Somebody, somewhere, sometime, will be glad you did.

Broad categories: Animals. Neglected, needy, hungry children. Diseased children. Young adults at risk. Needy families. Homeless people. Diseased adults. Elderly persons. Disabled persons. Service institutions. Organized charities. Others?

Shagger Profile Dennis M. Gehley

Occupation: Auditor

Birthday: November 16

Hometown: DC/Falls Church, VA

Marital Status: Married

Self-Portrait: 6'4" hunk-a hunk-a burnin' love!

Motto: If they can't take a joke . . .

Dream: To live as long as my wife!

Inspiration: Mom & Dad

Bad Habit: Late night snacks

Hobby: D.J. Business / model building

Luxury defined: Caribbean Jan.-June,
Europe July-Oct.

TV Program: X-Files

Drink or Wine: Vodka martini

Books at bedside: Billboard's No. 1 Hits - 1955-present

Last words: Party On, Garth . . .

SHAG **The Dance Legend**

A book has been put together about the history, the music and the life of the dance that we all love so much. It's a fascinating, beautiful hard bound, coffee table quality book with pictures, biographies and general nostalgia about the dance, how it began, its evolution -- and the near death and resurrection of the Shag. *I could not put it down!!*

If you are interested in the history of your dance this is a must read. By ordering through our club, we make \$4 per copy -- the book will be on display every Wednesday night at Deja Vu.

If you're interested in this priceless artifact, see JOHN BELT at Deja Vu on Wed. night!

Our club sends its heartfelt condolences to the family of Shad Alberty, who recently passed away. He will be deeply missed in the shag community.

Hey, Stop, What's That Sound? ... by patricia parrott

Lovers of dance, shag, and beach music are grateful to CRAIG HUTCHINSON for bringing in DJ Cliff Merritt to showcase his style of beach music, along with "the Gator's" style of R&B. We dancers came, undaunted by the snow and icy cold weather, from north, south, east and west of D.C. to dance to the music! The swing, shag and hand dance communities were all represented at the Elks Lodge on Saturday night, February 3rd.

We shaggers owe another expression of gratitude to swing guru, Craig Hutchinson, also known as "HUTCH." According to the recently published book entitled *Shag*, it was Craig who first brought shag outside the southeast. Back in the '80s, Craig saw JACKIE McGEE and CHARLIE WOMBLE dance in Myrtle Beach and invited them to a national Swing Dance Workshop in Oklahoma. That event opened the door for shag to become known competitively coast to coast. The primary objective of the Northern Virginia Shag Club ... other than to have fun ... is to promote Carolina Shag and beach music.

So, thanks, Craig, for your membership in and support of our club!

FOR RENT: Nice condo in N. Myrtle Beach: 2 BR, 2 Baths, 4 blocks from Fat Harold's, 2 blocks from Ocean. Sleeps 6. Swimming pool, washer/drier. (SORRY--not available during SOS!) CANVASBACK -- Contact Beachcomber Realty, 800-334-3798.

ANSWER to Pop Quiz: Our own RICK HENDRIX came up with the name "Shag Rag." Cool.

Happy, Happy Birthday

March Birthdays:

- 2 - Ray Farris
- 3 - Rick Hendrix
- 4 - Howard Christie
- 5 - Fran Harris
- 9 - Mark Goumas
- 15 - John Mullen
- 18 - Linda Arthur
- 18 - Doug Levitas
- 19 - Carol Lindsey
- 22 - Stephen Hoffman
- 22 - Bob Wilson
- 23 - Sally Riskin
- 25 - Louise Ware
- 27 - David Jones
- 30 - Patricia Jordan

New Members in February

WELCOME, new members!! Sandra Cangiano, Dennis Gehley, Nancy Gehley, Rockne Isaac, Sheri Jackson, Robin Landry, Fred MacAdam, Gwen Mandel, Denny Martin, Donna Phelan, Greg Reed, Bob Rubel, Kitty Senge, Renee St. James, Mary Williamson, Bob Wilson, Hilka Windborn, Mike Winters

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Membership Directories

New membership directories are available to MEMBERS ONLY for just \$2.00. Copies available at Deja Vu each Wednesday night.

You Can Win!!

50-50 Drawing at Deja Vu

First Wednesday



NVSC Will Host a Party Weekend!!

June 28-29, 1996

Your Board of Directors is busy planning a great event for you -- we will host our **FIRST Annual Weekend Party**, June 28-29, at the Howard Johnson's on Rt. 1 in Alexandria. Mark your calendars and look forward to a great weekend with **BEACH MUSIC** DJs, Heavy hors d'oeuvres on Friday night, Breakfast and Dinner on Saturday, a Continental breakfast on Sunday morning, and **NUMEROUS FREE POURS** all weekend.

We also plan to have a Shag Workshop taught by competitive shaggers -- details to be announced!!!

ROOMS will be blocked and available to shaggers for **only \$50 per night!** Yes, you heard right!! The hotel is very close to historic Old Town Alexandria, and the Nation's Capital, so we expect to **SELL OUT**, with heavy attendance from many out-of-town friends!

SUGGESTIONS, anyone, for a **NAME** for our event?? Contact any Board Member.



FREE - Carolina Shag Lessons

Every Wednesday night at **7:30 sharp**, **FREE BEGINNER SHAG LESSONS** are given by NVSC members at DeJa Vu -- in Blackie's, Commerce Street, Springfield.

Dance afterwards to **BEACH MUSIC** by **BERT NELBACH** from 8 - 12 p.m. Cover \$2.00. Call 703-971-4200 for directions.

AND THE WINNER IS ... \$\$\$

TRELLE SHAW was the lucky winner of the 50-50 drawing last month. **TRELLE** very generously donated her 50-50 winnings last month to St. Jude's Hospital fund drive sponsored by Blackie's. And, under the supervision of John Belt, our club donated the other half to the St. Jude's fund.

Please support this effort to raise funds for your club. Tickets are only \$1 for one, or \$5 for seven!

SUNDAY SOCIAL

EVERY SUNDAY!!

DANCE TO BEACH MUSIC
7 - 10 P.M.

INTERMEDIATE LESSONS
6 - 7 P.M.

WITH **K EITH ABERNATHY**
AND D ONNA HARRINGTON
& **SURPRISE GUEST INSTRUCTORS**

\$5 CHARGE
FOR EACH LESSON

AT

DEJA VU

\$2 COVER

YOU DO NOT NEED A PARTNER
LEARN NEW STEPS!!

From the Editor.....



NEEDED: CPA, tax attorney, or anyone otherwise equipped to give help and advice on filing our club tax return. Please contact **BILL HOPKINS** or **CHARLIE PRICE**.

Details happen.

Do you have an idea, a suggestion, a thought? Would you like to place an ad, write an article, a column, your Shagger Profile? Just let me know, okay?

See ya Shaggin'

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GOING TO MYRTLE BEACH??

To Attend SOS Events, YOU NEED THIS:

SOS MEMBERSHIP CARD GIVES YOU FREE ENTRY
INTO ALL PARTICIPATING CLUBS DURING SOS

Cost Reduction!! \$30 per person
Order before March 1st - SAVE \$\$
Order through Libby Hendrix, our SOS Coordinator
If you do so before March 1, 1996, you will save \$5!!

You will receive S.O.S. membership card
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